



## **Testimony from Solar Youth Stewards**

### **Corey Bethea**

Hello, my name is Corey and I am here to talk about why Solar Youth is important to me. Well, I was with Solar Youth only two years, but truly it was the best two years of my life. There are games, field trips, and I get to make new friends!

Solar Youth is important to me, because it is like a home away from home. When I come here, it's family. This year in Solar Youth I am a L.I.T. That stands for Leaders In Training. Now I have trainings to become a better leader and I help the Interns with their programs. But really to simplify this, Solar Youth is a part of me and nothing can separate me from this.

### **Talizha Jones**

Hello, my name is Talizha Jones. I've been in Solar Youth for about 10 years, starting when I was about four years old. They have taught me a whole lot about the environment that I did not know about and I am still learning! Everyone has always been kind to me and has taught me right from wrong.

Solar Youth is very important to me and my neighborhood. We have had Solar Youth throughout our whole life offering us new friends, family, learning, and friendship. I have made a whole bunch of friends at Solar Youth. Without Solar Youth we wouldn't have a lot of things to do year round, and without it a lot of people would get in trouble. Solar Youth deserves this opportunity a whole lot because we care so much about them!

### **Curtisy McGill**

Hello, my name is Curtisy McGill and I have been in Solar Youth for 5 years! Solar Youth is important to me because if I wasn't with them I wouldn't get the word out about littering and I would not have fun with all these new people. My favorite activities at Solar Youth are picking up trash for trash competitions, going to the aquarium, and ice-skating! If I wasn't in Solar Youth I would never know who is in the neighborhood. Solar Youth is important to my neighborhood because we help stop people from littering and smoking which is so bad for animals and people.

**To the Members of the Appropriations Committee:**

**My name is Yvette Emery and I have been a resident of Westville Manor for more than 25 years. I am writing this letter to speak on behalf the Solar Youth Program.**

**I have known Joanne Sciulli for many years now. Her program that she runs in our community is the heart of our kids' very existence. With so much violent crime in the New Haven area, her program is vital in the city. I personally have two generations of children who have attended Solar Youth for many years now: my children and my granddaughter.**

**I am a single parent who struggles from paycheck to paycheck. I do not have the extra money for my children and granddaughter to attend an after school program. Solar Youth is the best nonprofit organization that I have encountered in a very long time. Solar Youth keeps the children in my community busy, so that they do not have the time to turn to crime or become a city statistic.**

**I implore you to please continue to fund Joann's organization. The children have benefited tremendously from Solar Youth. My children have learned so much, and they have blossomed into caring, conscientious teenagers.**

**With my deepest regards,**

**Yvette Emery  
Westville Resident**